

State of Minnesota  
County of Dakota

District Court  
1st Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.  
Court File No.

CA-2015-01518  
19HA-CR-15-2669

State of Minnesota,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

**COMPLAINT**  
Warrant  
☒ Amended

**SANDRA SUE GRAZZINI RUCKI** DOB: [REDACTED]  
9270 Wexford Lane  
Elko, MN 55020  
Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Conceal Minor)**  
Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(1), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.26.6(a)(1)  
Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00  
Offense Level: Felony

FILED FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DAKOTA COUNTY, Court Administrator

**JUL 11 2016**

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013

Control #(ICR#): 13001278

Charge Description: On or about April 19, 2013 - November 18, 2015, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, SANDRA GRAZZINI-RUCKI, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, conceal a minor child from the child's parent where the action manifests an intent substantially to deprive that parent of parental rights or conceal a minor child from another person having the right to parenting time or custody where the action manifests an intent to substantially deprive that person of rights to parenting time or custody, to-wit: the minor child identified as SVR born [REDACTED].

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Take Minor) (Court Order) (From Parent)**  
Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(3), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.26.6(a)(1)  
Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00  
Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013

Control #(ICR#): 13001278

Charge Description: On or about April 19, 2013 - November 18, 2015, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, SANDRA SUE GRAZZINI RUCKI, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, take, obtain, retain, or fail to return a minor child from or to the parent in violation of a court order, where the action manifests an intent substantially to deprive that parent of rights to parenting



time or custody, to-wit: the minor child identified as SVR born [REDACTED]

### COUNT III

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Take Minor) (No Court Order)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(4), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.26.6(a)(1)

Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013

Control #(ICR#): 13001278

Charge Description: On or about April 19, 2013 - November 18, 2015, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, SANDRA SUE GRAZZINI RUCKI, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, take, obtain, retain, or fail to return a minor child from or to a parent after commencement of an action relating to child parenting time or custody but prior to the issuance of an order determining custody or parenting time rights, where the action manifests an intent substantially to deprive that parent of parental rights, to-wit: the minor child identified as SVR born [REDACTED]

### COUNT IV

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Conceal Minor)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(1), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.26.6(a)(1)

Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013

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### COUNT V

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Take Minor) (Court Order) (From Parent)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(3), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.26.6(a)(1)

Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013

Control #(ICR#): 13001278

Charge Description: On or about April 19, 2013 - November 18, 2015, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, SANDRA SUE GRAZZINI RUCKI, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, take, obtain, retain, or fail to return a minor child from or to the parent in violation of a court order, where the action manifests an intent substantially to deprive that parent of rights to parenting time or custody, to-wit: the minor child identified as GJR born [REDACTED]

### COUNT VI

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Take Minor) (No Court Order)**



Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(4), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.26.6(a)(1)

Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013

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Charge Description: On or about April 19, 2013 - November 18, 2015, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, SANDRA SUE GRAZZINI RUCKI, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, take, obtain, retain, or fail to return a minor child from or to a parent after commencement of an action relating to child parenting time or custody but prior to the issuance of an order determining custody or parenting time rights, where the action manifests an intent substantially to deprive that parent of parental rights, to-wit: the minor child identified as GJR born [REDACTED]

#### COUNT VII

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Cause Minor to be Runaway)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(8)

Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013 to 11/18/2015

Control #(ICR#): 13001278

Charge Description: On or about April 19, 2013 - November 18, 2015, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, SANDRA SUE GRAZZINI RUCKI, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, cause or contribute to a child being a runaway as defined in Minn. Stat. 260C.007, Subd. 28, and is at least 18 years old and more than 24 months older than the child, to-wit: the minor child identified as SVR born [REDACTED]

#### COUNT VIII

**Charge: Deprivation of Custodial/Parental Rights (Cause Minor to be Runaway)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.26.1(8)

Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,200.00 - \$4,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/19/2013 to 11/18/2015

Control #(ICR#): 13001278

Charge Description: On or about April 19, 2013 - November 18, 2015, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, SANDRA SUE GRAZZINI RUCKI, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, cause or contribute to a child being a runaway as defined in Minn. Stat. 260C.007, Subd. 28, and is at least 18 years old and more than 24 months older than the child, to-wit: the minor child identified as GJR born [REDACTED]



## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

### Temporary Court Orders Regarding Custody and Visitation

David Rucki (hereinafter "Rucki") and Sandra Sue Grazzini-Rucki, born [REDACTED] (hereinafter "Defendant") were married and have five minor children in common. Two of the children are their eldest daughters, SVR born [REDACTED] and GJR born [REDACTED]. During the course of the dissolution proceeding venued in Dakota County, Minnesota, (hereinafter "dissolution proceeding") the physical custody of the children was placed with Defendant. On September 5, 2012, an emergency hearing was held at which Rucki requested that the children be removed from the care of Defendant. The presiding judge issued a court order dated September 7, 2012, placing temporary physical and legal custody with the children's paternal aunt. The September 7, 2012, court order directed both Rucki and Defendant to avoid any contact with their children except as recommended in writing by the therapist involved with the family. This court order also required that the children immediately begin therapy with Dr. JG and required Defendant, Rucki and the children to follow all recommendations of Dr. JG.

On October 3, 2012, the judge issued an order that placed temporary physical and legal custody of the children in both the paternal aunt and a maternal aunt. At the time of the issuance of this order, the oldest child was living with the paternal aunt and the other four children, including SVR and GJR, were residing with the maternal aunt.

On November 5, 2012, the judge issued an order requiring Defendant and Rucki to cooperate and follow all the instructions of Dr. JG regarding contact and parenting time with their children. On December 18, 2012, the judge issued an order requiring Defendant and Rucki to continue to follow all instructions of Dr. JG regarding contact and parenting time. This order allowed Defendant and Rucki to have limited contact with their eldest son, but only outside the presence of the other four children.

On April 19, 2013, the judge issued an order following a hearing that was held on February 26, 2013. During the hearing, the maternal aunt advised the court that she was no longer able to care for the four children that were living with her. Accordingly, the judge ordered that the four children be removed from the home of the maternal aunt and placed in the care of the paternal aunt. In this order, the judge reiterated that Defendant was to continue to follow the recommendations of Dr. JG regarding parenting time; that any contact Defendant had with the children was to be as determined by Dr. JG; and that Defendant was not to have any unsupervised contact with the children until such time she completed a psychological evaluation.



### Events of April 19, 2013

On April 19, 2013, the physical custody of the four children was transferred to the paternal aunt who was residing in the children's family home located in the City of Lakeville, Dakota County, Minnesota. The exchange occurred at approximately 5:30 p.m. on that date. At approximately 7:45 p.m., a Lakeville police officer was dispatched to the residence on a runaway report. The paternal aunt reported SVR (age 14 at this time) and GJR (age 13 at this time) as runaways. According to the paternal aunt, SVR and GJR were upset about the living arrangements. The paternal aunt reported that the girls left the residence approximately 10 minutes after arriving and left without any of their property, including their shoes. The paternal aunt searched bags belonging to the girls and discovered packaging for a cell phone. The paternal aunt believed that the girls had been picked up by Defendant. The officer called Defendant on her cell phone, but it was turned off. Deputies with the Scott County Sheriff's Office went to Defendant's last known residence in Elko, but no one answered the door.

### Deposition of DN

On June 24, 2015, a deposition was taken of an adult male identified as DN. During his deposition, DN disclosed the following facts. On April 19, 2013, between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., DN met Defendant at a FedEx in Apple Valley, Minnesota, where the two made copies of court documents. While making copies, Defendant was talking on her cell phone and seemed to be somewhat agitated. After Defendant was done talking on the cell phone, she requested DN to get into her vehicle, which he did. Defendant drove to the Lakeville area in the vicinity of the family home where the children had returned to on that date. Defendant parked on a street near a field. Defendant and DN waited at that location for approximately 15 to 20 minutes at which time SVR and GJR came running across the field and got into the car. The field was snow covered and the girls complained about their feet being cold after entering the vehicle.

After the girls entered the vehicle, Defendant drove away from the location and voiced her concern about getting stopped by Lakeville police. While driving, she repeatedly told the girls to "get down." Defendant drove through Lakeville and Eagan, drove into Washington County, and then took backroads to the Elko-New Market area. They drove around for a couple of hours. While driving, Defendant was talking on her cell phone and mentioned the name "Michael" who DN believed was Michael Rhedin (hereinafter "Rhedin"). At the time, Defendant was residing with Rhedin at his residence in Elko, Minnesota.

According to DN, Defendant was discussing with Rhedin as to where she could take the girls.

Defendant eventually dropped DN off at a truck stop on Highway 35E. Defendant drove away with

the two girls still in her vehicle. DN waited at the truck stop for 30 to 45 minutes at which point Rhedin and one of his sons picked DN up and drove him back to his vehicle in Apple Valley.

During his deposition, DN testified that he believed Defendant had taken the girls to the St. Cloud area because he had telephone conversations with Defendant and ascertained that Defendant was using a phone in the St. Cloud library. During one conversation, Defendant told DN that the girls were going to be interviewed by Fox television on May 15, 2013. The interview did in fact occur and was conducted at an undisclosed hotel. The interview of the girls aired on Fox television on May 15, 2013. During this timeframe, DN recalls Defendant being "very tight-lipped" about where the girls were and how they could be contacted.

#### Interview of Michael Rhedin on April 20, 2013

On April 20, 2013, a deputy of the Scott County Sheriff's Office spoke to Rhedin. Rhedin claimed he had not seen SVR and GJR for approximately six months. When questioned about the whereabouts of Defendant, Rhedin claimed he did not know and stated that she may be flying. Defendant was employed as a flight attendant at the time.

#### Court Order Dated August 26, 2013

On June 12, 2013, Rucki brought a motion in the dissolution proceeding requesting, amongst other things, that Defendant be held in contempt of court for having contact with SVR and GJR and abducting them from the care of the paternal aunt. In an order dated August 26, 2013, the judge declined to find Defendant in contempt, but directed the parties to immediately disclose any information regarding the whereabouts of the girls. Defendant did not disclose any information in response to the judge's directive.

#### Custody Trial

On September 11 and 12, 2013, a trial was conducted in the dissolution proceeding concerning custody, parenting time and child support issues. At the time of this trial, the whereabouts of SVR and GJR were still unknown to Rucki. On November 25, 2013, an order was issued awarding Rucki sole legal and physical custody of all five children, including SVR and GJR. In the order, the judge recounted some of the evidence presented during the trial concerning the missing children:

There was no evidence presented at trial that Petitioner [Defendant] has ever reported the children's disappearance or that she has made any efforts to locate them. During her testimony at trial, Petitioner [Defendant] claimed that she was under a court order not to look for her children. Petitioner [Defendant] had a flat affect and showed no emotion when speaking about her missing

children. Her testimony regarding the whereabouts of her children was uncooperative and obstructionistic.

On November 18, 2015, SVR (now 17-years-old) and GJR (now 15-years-old) were located by Lakeville police officers at a residence in Grant County, Minnesota (i.e., Doug and Gina Dahlen residence). According to Gina Dahlen, Defendant and Deirdre Evavold brought SVR and GJR to the residence on April 23, 2013, and the children have been at the residence since that date.

#### Interview of SVR

On June 30, 2016, an interview was conducted of SVR by Detective Coughlin of the Lakeville Police Department. During the interview, SVR reported the following facts. Rucki never physically abused SVR and she never saw Rucki physically abuse any of her siblings. As to the events of April 19, 2013, it was her idea to run away and that she asked Defendant to come get her. SVR contacted her mom by phone using "burner phones" provided to SVR by Rhedin. SVR and GJR were picked up by Defendant and DN. After dropping DN off, Defendant drove SVR and GJR to Evavold's residence in St. Cloud where the three stayed for a day or two. Thereafter, SVR and GJR were taken to the Dahlen residence and left there by Defendant. Defendant stated that she would be back in a couple of days to pick up SVR and GJR. Defendant did not return to pick up the girls and she never called them during the time they stayed at the Dahlen residence.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:  
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings, and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 35B.11B, Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Kelli Coughlin  
Detective  
8237 183rd Street NW  
Lakeville, MN 55044  
Badge: 4812

Electronically Signed:  
07/11/2016 01:48 PM  
Dakota County Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Kathryn M. Keena  
Assistant Dakota County  
Attorney  
1550 Hwy 55  
Hastings, MN 55033-2392  
(651) 436-4436

Electronically Signed:  
07/11/2016 12:28 PM



## FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

### ☐ SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at 1560 W Highway 55 Dakota County Judicial Center, Hastings, MN 55033 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

### ☒ WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

☐ Execute in MN Only

☒ Execute Nationwide

☐ Execute in Border States

### ☐ ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: July 11, 2016.

Judicial Officer

Thomas W. Pugh  
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 07/11/2016 03:11 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

COUNTY OF DAKOTA  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Sandra Sue Grazzini Rucki

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE  
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent